HT 9-1-04

Episcopal panel tries to put gay issue on hold

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER • To prevent a split in the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, a task force has recommended that liberal Episcopalians shouldn't push for blessings of same-sex unions now while traditionalists should end their financial boycott of the diocese.

The task force advises Bishop Rob O'Neill that the same-sex blessings debate should be placed on hold until Episcopalians from across the country discuss it at their next general convention in 2006, the Rev. John Huffman, a member of the panel, said Monday. Until that larger debate, the group also advises that no new gay clergy from outside Colorado be appointed but that gay clergy serving be allowed to remain.

Traditionalists are also asked to promise not to pursue "episcopal oversight," a process in which parishes can be placed under the authority of another bishop.

The panel, which included liberals, traditionalists and a gay representative, sometimes clashed during its six-month deliberation, but Huffman said he felt "the Holy Spirit broke through" as they wrestled with the issues.

It will be up to O'Neill to decide whether to adopt the recommendations and convince both sides to agree to compromise.

He supports gay rights but pledged no major changes involving same-sex couples after becoming the leader of Colorado's 35,000 Episcopalians in January.

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QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"It cannot be repeated too often that the Constitution is a limitation on the government, not on private individuals."

AYN RAND

"The political concept of the individual's freedom means: freedom from arbitrary actio on the part of the police power."

LUDWIG VON MISES

"The merchant has no country."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

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